

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SY-10 IO-13 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10

M-03 A-01 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 /123 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ P: BRUSSELL: MR

6/26/73 EXT 20362

APPROVED BY AF/ P: JMPOPE

AF/ N: RSMITH

S/ PRS: PHARE

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R 262023 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 124726

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR SU

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON SUDAN TRIAL

1. SPOKESMAN AT JUNE 26 PRESS BRIEFING DREW ON FOLLOWING
PREPARED GUIDANCE IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUERIES:

Q. DOES THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN RE-
FLECT U. S. SATISFACTION WITH THE PROSECUTION OF THE ARAB
GUERRILLAS?

A. AS WE ALREADY HAVE INDICATED, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT
ASSOCIATED THE TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF THE KHARTOUM TERROR-
ISTS WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO
SUDAN. THE SELECTION OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR PROCEEDED
NORMALLY THROUGH WASHINGTON AND DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE STATUS OF THE TRIAL?

A. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR RESUMPTION OF THE
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MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY IN KHARTOUM, BUT WE DO HAVE REPORTS OF ACTION HAVING A DIRECT BEARING ON THE CASE. MIRGHANI AL- NASRI, PRESIDENT OF THE SUDANESE BAR ASSOCIATION, TOLD THE PRESS IN KHARTOUM ON JUNE 24 THAT THE SUDANESE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL MEET THIS WEEK TO STUDY LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE TERRORIST CASE AND PREPARE MEMORANDA. THE COMMITTEE ALSO WILL DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL,

WHICH WAS FORMED RECENTLY TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN THE MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL. THE ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL IS NON- SUDANESE AND IS MADE UP OF BARRISTERS FROM SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES.

MR. AL- NASRI SAID THE SUDANESE DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL SEEK THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT' S PERMISSION FOR THE COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT ITS ASSIGNED TASKS.

MR. AL- NASRI TOLD THE PRESS THAT AFTER THESE MEETINGS ARE CONCLUDED, HE WILL MEET WITH THE MAGISTRATE AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO DETERMINE A DATE FOR RESUMING THE MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY. A TRIAL DATE WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER THESE STEPS ARE COMPLETED.

2. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED RE THE MEANING OF MAGISTRATE; SUBJECT OF LEGAL ASPECTS UNDER STUDY; NATIONALITY AND NUMBER OF TERRORISTS INVOLVED.

3. AF/ P WOULD APPRECIATE SPELL OUT OF FUNCTIONS OF SUDAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL TO ANSWER PRESS QUERIES. ALSO NEED PRECISE PURPOSE MAGISTRATE INQUIRY. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE124726
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BRUSSELL: MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730628/aaaajnxi.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980225
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING ON SUDAN TRIAL
TAGS: PFOR, SU, n/a
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005